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February 23, 2005

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Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
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Mail Stop Amendment

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application
Application No. 09/306,986; Filed: May 7, 1999
For: **A Method for Synthesizing a Nucleic Acid Molecule Using a Ribonuclease**
Inventors: Trinh *et al.*
Our Ref: 0942.4570001/RWE/FRC

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a);
2. Amendment and Reply Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111;
3. Credit Card Payment Form (PTO-2038) in the amount of **\$120.00** to cover the extension of time fee; and
4. Return postcard.

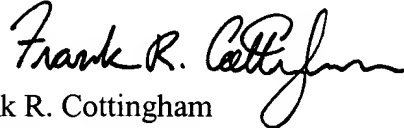
It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

Commissioner for Patents
February 23, 2005
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The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank R. Cottingham". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Frank" being the most prominent.

Frank R. Cottingham
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FRC/pcd
Encls.

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